



## Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Telephone  
Fax  
Minicom  
Email  
Website [www.direct.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.direct.gov.uk/motoring)

Your Ref  
Our Ref

Date: 8 February 2007

Dear

### **Freedom of Information**

Your request for information received on 19<sup>th</sup> of January asked numerous questions about the tax disc barcode. I am replying under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I will answer your questions in the order that you have asked them:

#### **1. What information does the barcode contain?**

The barcode on the vehicle licence is in a specific format and shows a DVLA and Post Office® code, followed by the number of the expiry month and expiry year. There is also a sequential serial number and a check digit. The sequential part of the serial number and check digit will change on every disc.

#### **2. Who is authorised to access/read that information?**

Motor Vehicle Licence issuing Post Office® branches are able to read the barcodes for the purposes of issuing vehicle licences and for transmitting information relating to licences issued, to DVLA.

#### **3. By what means is that information accessed/read?**

The barcode contained within the tax disc enables licence serial numbers to be captured as part of the licensing transactions at Post Office® branches. Post Office staff use specially configured barcode scanners to scan the barcode on the tax disc which, in conjunction with scanning the barcode on the vehicle licence application form (V11) or the Vehicle Registration Certificate (V5C), enables the correct rate of duty to be calculated. Transactions are then sent electronically from Post Office® branches and the transmitted data is used to update the vehicle record at DVLA.

#### **4. By what authority is the information accessed/read?**

Post Office Ltd act as DVLA's agents for issuing vehicle licences and the barcode is read solely for the purposes outlined in the answer to the above question.



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**5. What precautions are in place to prevent unauthorised access/reading?**

The BART system is available only at licence issuing Post Office® branches and is accessed by staff at these branches via a specially configured barcode reader. The necessary information to be able to read the barcode is released strictly on a “need to know” basis.

If you are unhappy with the decisions made by this Agency in relation to your request, you may ask for an internal review.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact XXXXXXXX. Please remember to quote the reference above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely